

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 177

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION designating May 2011 as "Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Prader-Willi syndrome is a complex genetic disorder that occurs in approximately 1 out of every 15,000 births, and is the most commonly known genetic cause of life-threatening obesity; and

WHEREAS, Prader-Willi syndrome affects males and females with equal frequency and affects all races and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, Prader-Willi syndrome causes an extreme and insatiable appetite, often resulting in morbid obesity, which is the major cause of death for individuals with the syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Prader-Willi syndrome also causes cognitive and learning disabilities, and behavioral difficulties, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder and difficulty controlling emotions; and

WHEREAS, the hunger, metabolic, and behavioral characteristics of Prader-Willi syndrome force affected individuals to require constant and lifelong supervision in a controlled environment; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that there is a high morbidity and mortality rate for individuals with Prader-Willi syndrome; and

WHEREAS, there is no known cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis of Prader-Willi syndrome allows families to access treatment, intervention services, and support from health professionals, advocacy organizations, and other families who are dealing with the syndrome; and

WHEREAS, recently discovered treatments, such as human growth hormone, are improving the quality of life for individuals with the syndrome and offer new hope to families, but many difficult symptoms associated with Prader-Willi syndrome remain untreated; and

WHEREAS, increased research into Prader-Willi syndrome can lead to a better understanding of the disorder, more effective treatments, and an eventual cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; and

WHEREAS, increased research into Prader-Willi syndrome is likely to improve our understanding of common public health concerns, including childhood obesity and mental health; and

WHEREAS, many advocacy organizations and the United States Congress have designated May as Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, committed to informing the citizens of Tennessee of the importance of early detection and increased research, and honoring those persons whose lives have been affected by Prader-Willi syndrome, this General Assembly has chosen May 2011 as "Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate May 2011 as "Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month" in Tennessee and encourage all medical facilities in the State to dedicate more time, energy, and funding to the diagnosing and treatment of the disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.